

The image shows a three-story red brick building with a central tower topped by a red dome. The building is partially obscured by a large tree with pink cherry blossoms on the right and a large green bush in the foreground. The sky is overcast.

# 2021 Environmental Health Annual Report

**April 2022**

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## **Mission**

*The Clallam County Environmental Health Division's purpose is to assist in the protection of our community's health through the prevention and control of environmentally related communicable diseases and through the minimization of exposure to environmental health hazards.*



## **Vision**

1. Assessing the community's environmental health needs and developing quality, science-based programs in response to these needs
2. Monitoring the community's environmental health status and improving existing services based on changing conditions
3. Providing accurate information and quality educational outreach programs to our community
4. Advocating the principles and values of public health
5. Responsible and professional enforcement of public health regulations
6. Professional conduct that inspires excellence in communication, problem solving, cooperation, teamwork, and public health service
7. Making a positive difference within our community through coordination and collaboration with the public, industry and service organization

## **Clallam County Environmental Health**

Clallam County Environmental Health (CCEH) is the local health jurisdiction (LHJ) in Clallam County who enforces environmental health laws and policies. CCEH programs include drinking water, food safety and living environment, onsite septics, solid and hazardous waste, water quality, and administration.

Environmental health is the science and practice of preventing human injury and illness and promoting well-being by identifying and evaluating environmental sources and hazardous agents, and limiting exposures to hazardous physical, chemical, and biological agents in air, water, soil, food, and other environmental media or settings that may adversely affect human health (*National Environmental Health Association, 2022, [link to page www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)*).

Environmental Health (EH) staff goes into the community to work with professionals in the drinking water, food service establishments, onsite septics, solid waste facility, and water quality areas. The staff works with the general public in providing information on onsite septic systems, restaurants, air quality, drinking water, and water quality. EH staff serves all residents of Clallam County.

### **Environmental Health Authority**

The authority to enforce environmental health regulations at a local level comes under the Health Officer's authority, [RCW 70.05.070, Local health officer-powers and duties](#) (Dr. Allison Berry, MD, MPH) and under the local Board of Health (BOH), [RCW 70.05.060, Powers and duties of local boards of health](#). There are currently seven members of the BOH. The BOH is comprised of the three County Commissioners, a city representative, a hospital representative, and two at-large positions.

Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services and Environmental Health are funded through Clallam County. The County provides all funding, budgeting, and employee support. The County government is overseen by the three Board of Commissioners, with a County Administrator under authority of a County Charter. For more information go to, [Clallam County Home Rule Charter](#).

For enforcement of Environmental Health codes, we use established policies and procedures. When a case continues to escalate, EH works with the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

### **Regulation Information**

CCEH enforces both Washington State and local environmental health codes. These codes are mandated by Washington State. The Washington State environmental health codes include Washington Administrative Code (WAC) in title 173 which are Washington State Department of Ecology codes, and in title 246 which are Department of Health codes. The WACs can be found, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/>. WACs are the specific laws. Local codes are Clallam County Code (CCC). Additionally, the rules that govern the laws are the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The RCWs can be found, <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/>.

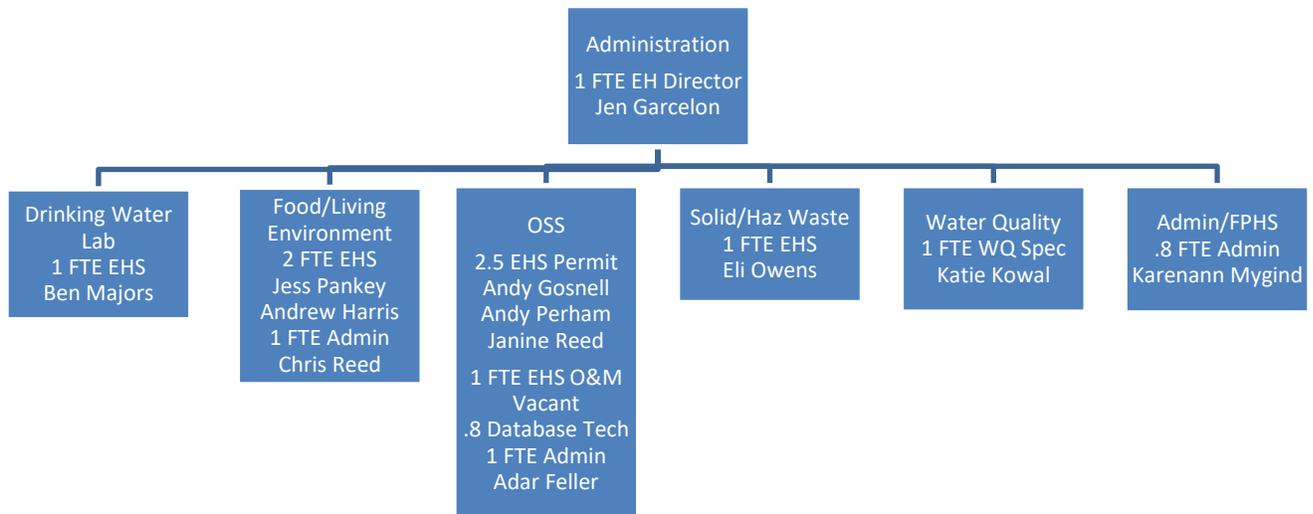
The table below outlines the major State and local EH codes.

**Environmental Health Regulations**

| Program          | Code             | Name  |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| Drinking Water   | WAC 246-290      | Group A Public Water Supplies                               |
|                  | WAC 246-291      | Group B Public Water Systems                                |
| Food Safety      | WAC 246-215      | Food Service  |
|                  | WAC 246-217      | Food Worker Cards   |
|                  | CCC 41.40        | Rules and Regulations Governing Food Service Establishments |
| On-Site Septic   | WAC 246-272A     | On-Site Sewage Systems                                      |
|                  | CCC 41.20        | On-Site Sewage System                                       |
| Schools          | WAC 246-366/366A | EH and Safety Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools   |
| Solid Waste      | WAC 173-304      | Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling       |
|                  | WAC 173-350      | Solid Waste Handling Standards                              |
|                  | WAC 173-351      | Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills                |
|                  | CCC 41.11        | Solid Waste Regulations                                     |
| Water Recreation | WAC 246-260      | Water Recreation Facilities                                 |

**Staffing**

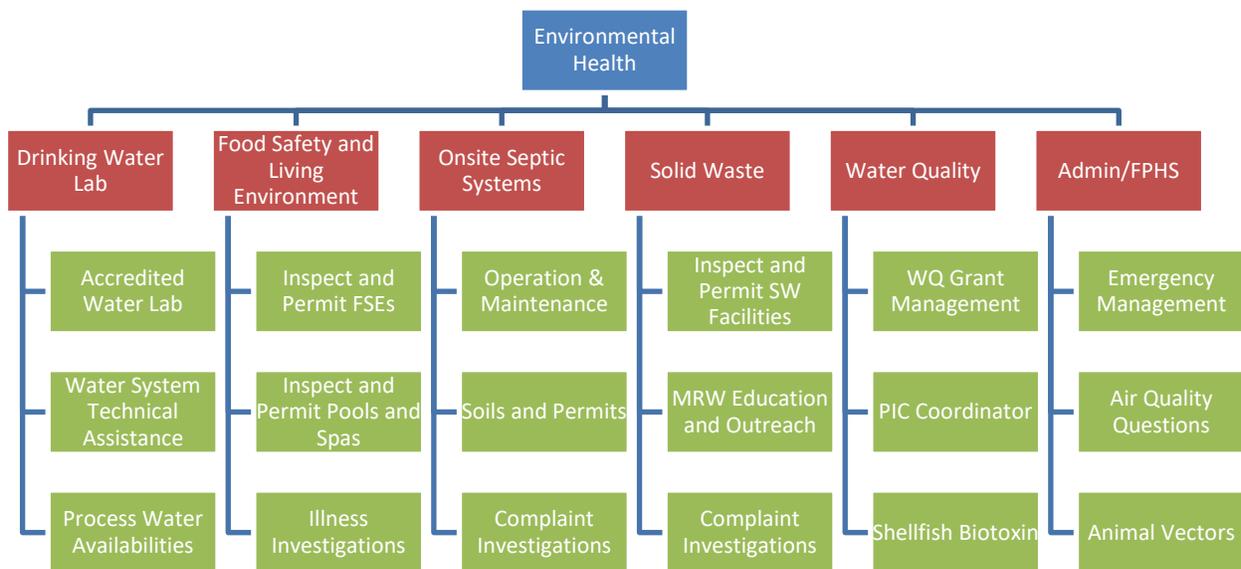
The Environmental Health has a team of 14 staff, with 13.1 FTE. The team includes the EH Director, 8.5 FTE Environmental Health Specialists (EHS), 2.8 FTE Administrative/Customer Specialists, and 0.8 FTE Database Technician. Staff are located in two separate areas; the main Courthouse and at the Health and Human Services (HHS) Building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Port Angeles. The drinking water laboratory is located within the Courthouse.



**Clallam County Environmental Health Program Organization**

Clallam County Environmental Health is divided into six program areas; the Drinking Water Lab, the Food Safety and Living Environment, the Onsite Septic System, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Water Quality, and Administration programs.

The Drinking Water Program includes an accredited drinking water lab for nitrate and bacteria testing maintained by an Environmental Health Specialist who also provides well siting and proof of potable water reviews, and water system surveys. The Food Safety and Living Environment Program permits and inspects food service establishments as well as pools and spas. The Onsite Septic System (OSS) Program is largely divided between the permitting and operation and maintenance programs. The OSS permitting program processes OSS permits. The O&M program works to normalize routine OSS inspections and provide outreach and education. The Solid Waste Program permits and inspects facilities and conducts outreach and education. The Water Quality Program oversees water quality monitoring, protection, and restoration projects; it is the main point for water quality grants in Onsite Septic Systems, Pollution, Identification and Correction (PIC). The Administration Program oversees all of EH and emerging programs, like foundational public health, emergencies, and animal vectors.

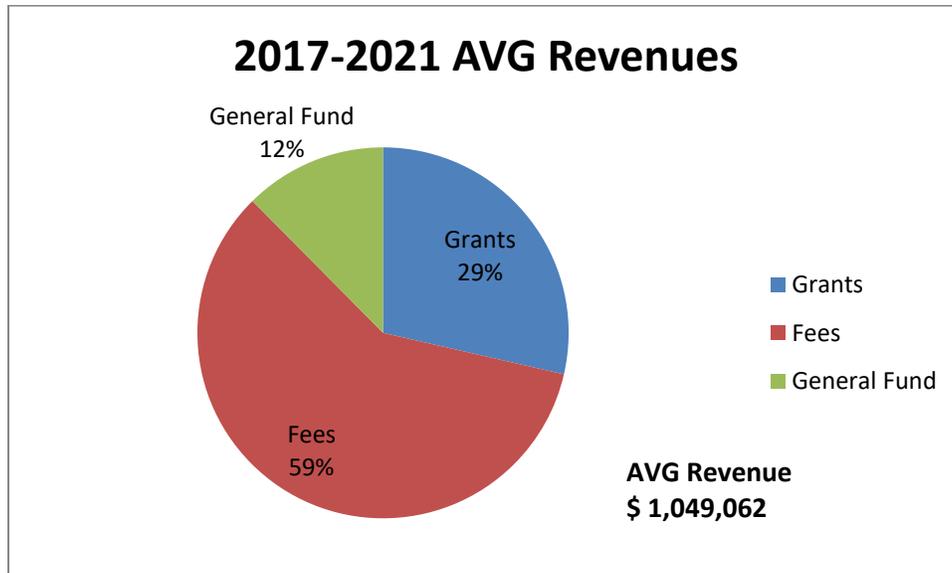


**Environmental Health Budget**

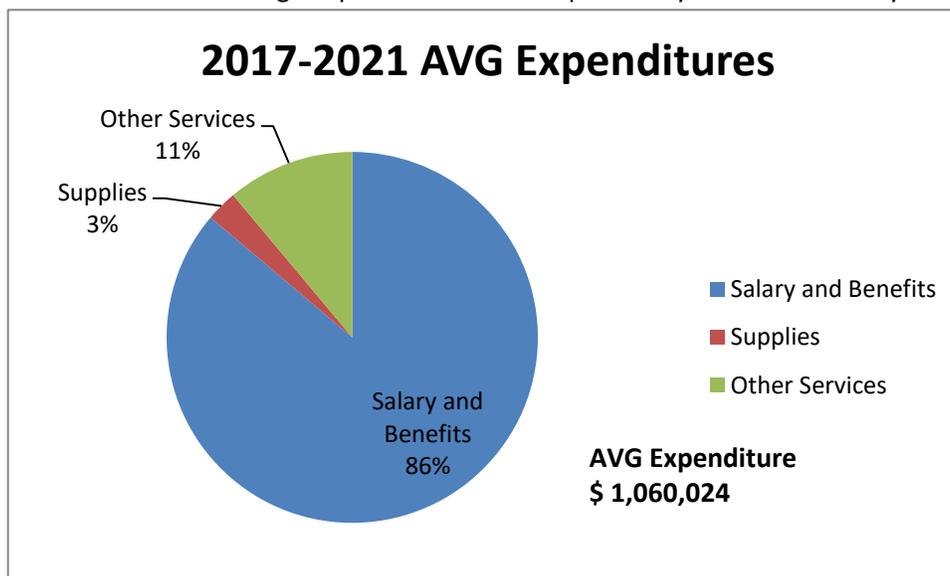
Environmental Health is funded through a variety of sources, including fee for service, grants, and Clallam County general fund. The program fees are categorized in four areas, in order of the amount generated per year. These include onsite septic, food safety and living environment, drinking water laboratory, and solid waste. EH manages 12-16 grants per year. In 2021, EH received 14 grants, 12 grants from Washington State Department of Health and received 2 grants from Washington State Department of Ecology. These numbers do not include the COVID-19 grants. The remaining revenue

comes from the Clallam County General Fund. A small percentage, <0.1% of revenue includes fines and other revenue.

There is variation in all revenue categories over the years. The program fees generated can vary based on the housing and building markets for onsite septic permits. The grant fees are also variable since some of the largest grants are competitive and not guaranteed. Grant payments sometimes come in large amounts in the next fiscal year which accounts for some of the variation. The graph below shows the average revenue categories from 2017-2021.



The EH expenditures are primarily in three categories; salary and benefits, supplies, and other services. Supplies include general office and operating supplies and small tools for each program. Other services include contracts with other agencies, advertising, postage, training, registration, and license renewals. The graph below shows the average expenditure over the past five years in the county budget



categories.

This table shows the past five years' Environmental Health revenue and expenditure from 2017-2021.

|             | 2017       | 2018         | 2019         | 2020         | 2021         |
|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenue     | \$ 870,960 | \$ 1,022,830 | \$ 981,525   | \$ 812,572   | \$ 1,107,927 |
| Expenditure | \$ 977,572 | \$ 1,026,677 | \$ 1,045,948 | \$ 1,110,185 | \$ 1,146,551 |

The 2022 budgeted revenue is \$ 1,098,100 and the budgeted expenditure is \$1,317,707.

### COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted the Environmental Health staffing and budget. In March 2020, Washington State and Clallam County declared a public health emergency due to the emergence of COVID-19. There were mandated government shut downs in schools and businesses. Environmental Health services were kept open to receive drinking water samples and septic repair permits. Environmental Health staff continued to be available in person, by phone and email.

Environmental Health shifted staffing to help in the COVID-19 response. Jess Pankey, one of the food program EHS, moved into infection control and outbreak response. She continues to work in this role. Eli Owens, the EHS in the solid waste program moved half of his time to manage the Social Distance Center. He was in that role until September 2021. Environmental Health staff also worked in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Jen Garcelon, the EHD, worked half time in the EOC for the first six months of the event, and then worked depending on the objectives and missions like the mass vaccination clinics. Jason Hart worked in Logistics in the EOC.

Environmental Health was the main county contact for interpreting the Washington State reopening guidance by business sector. EH was the local contact to report COVID-19 masking complaints. The administrative staff received dozens of COVID-19 calls per day and the assigned EHS spent 1/3 of their time responding to questions and providing outreach. The business outreach continued throughout 2021.

As a result of increasing COVID-19 cases from the Delta variant, in September 2021, a Public Health Order (PHO) went into effect requiring vaccination verification to eat indoors at restaurants and bars. The food program staff spent a majority of their time on the response to the PHO in the latter half of 2021.

The COVID-19 public health emergency affected EH revenue. In 2020, there was a decrease in Environmental Health permits, especially in the food program. There was an -8% decrease in overall fee revenue in 2020 compared to 2019. In 2021, revenues rebounded. The fee revenue increased +17% from 2020 after many businesses opened back up and the housing market continued to stay strong.

## **Drinking Water Lab**

The Clallam County Environmental Health Drinking Water and Laboratory Program is responsible for the regulation of drinking water sources in Clallam County through sanitary surveys, technical assistance, and complaint investigation. The program also operates and manages the County's accredited environmental health water laboratory to provide routine and investigative water testing for public and private water systems in Clallam County. The drinking water program operates under the authority from WAC 246-290, WAC 246-291, WAC 173-50, and RCW 19.27.097.

### **Staffing**

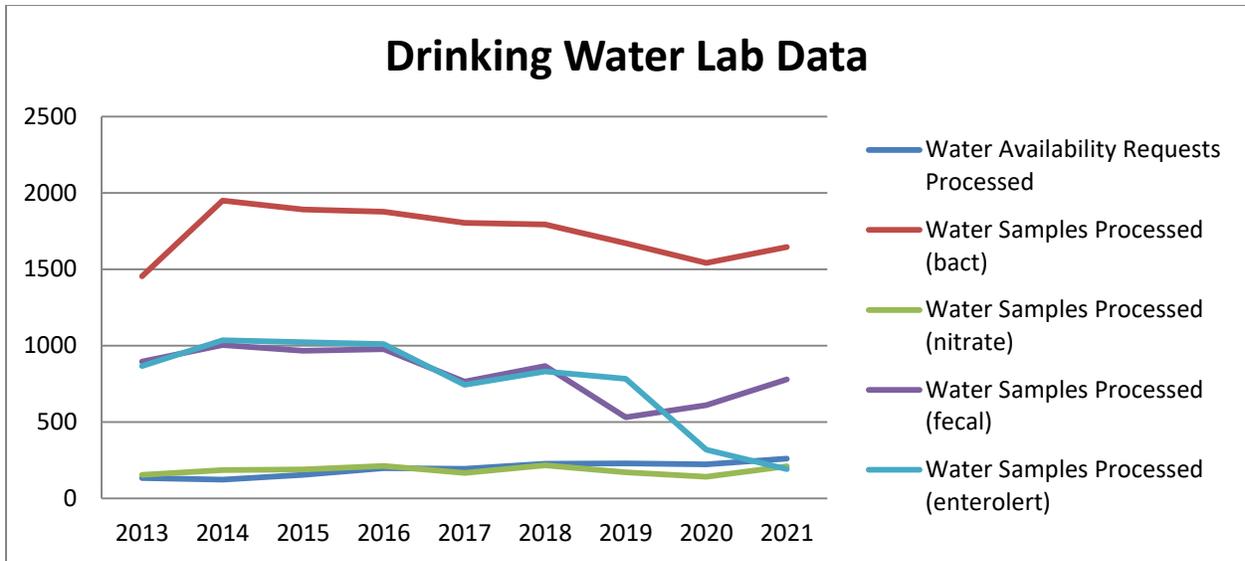
The Drinking Water and Laboratory program is staffed by one primary staff and supported by two administrative staff. The staff includes 1 FTE Environmental Health Specialist (EHS). Staff and the drinking water laboratory are located in the Clallam County Courthouse in Port Angeles.

### **Routine Program Activities**

Nan Furford and Chris Reed answer calls, answer questions, and receive water samples for and from the public. The Drinking Water Program EHS, Ben Majors, performs water tests for public and private water systems. The drinking water EHS also performs regular quality control measures to assure accredited, high quality water testing practices. In addition to lab work, the drinking water EHS regulates public water systems by verifying new connections and providing technical assistance for owners, operators, and consumers.

The table below shows the drinking water lab activities from 2013-2021. The graph on the next page shows the drinking water activities from 2013-2021.

|                                       | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Water Availability Requests Processed | 133   | 122   | 154   | 197   | 193   | 226   | 229   | 222   | 261   |
| Water Samples Processed (bact)        | 1,453 | 1,949 | 1,892 | 1,876 | 1,803 | 1,794 | 1,671 | 1,541 | 1,645 |
| Water Samples Processed (nitrate)     | 153   | 184   | 189   | 213   | 166   | 216   | 171   | 142   | 211   |
| Water Samples Processed (fecal)       | 896   | 1,004 | 967   | 976   | 764   | 866   | 530   | 610   | 779   |
| Water Samples Processed (enterolert)  | 866   | 1,035 | 1,023 | 1,010 | 743   | 831   | 782   | 318   | 192   |



#### 2021 Highlights

In December 2021, long time EHS, Sue Waldrip, retired after seven years in the Drinking Water Program and twenty-three years with the County. Sue had been our “go-to” person for many EH issues since she had worked for the County in the 1980’s, then back in the 2000’s. She retired with a lot of institutional knowledge, but she left written policies and procedures. Ben Majors, who is a recent graduate of BYU-Idaho and originally from Port Orchard, Washington was hired as the EHS for the Drinking Water Program in November 2021. Sue had six weeks to train with Ben. He quickly learned the processes and procedures of the lab.

In addition to the change of staff we saw an improvement in the numbers of water tests and water availability requests processed after the heavy hit of 2020 due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 2021 Challenges and COVID-19 Effects

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a heavy impact on the volume of water tests performed. 2021 saw an improvement, albeit lower volume of tests performed as compared to before the pandemic. In addition to pandemic struggles, the drinking water lab has struggled with keeping antiquated lab equipment fully functional and has required a measure of creativity in working through repairs and replacements on the part of drinking water staff. Work is underway to replace old lab equipment.



## **Food Safety and Living Environment**

The Clallam County Environmental Health Food Safety and Living Environment Program is responsible for working with the public, food service establishments, food service workers and water recreation facilities to protect public health. We work to prevent the spread of foodborne and waterborne illnesses through our inspection, education and permitting programs. Environmental Health's School Safety Program responds to and investigates reports of illness and potential safety hazards occurring in public and private schools, kindergarten through high school. These reports involve issues such as air quality, playground safety and food safety. Environmental Health Specialists review plans of all new and remodeled school sites and provide a safety inspection upon request.

### **Staffing**

There are 2 FTE Inspectors, Jess Pankey and Andrew Harris (1.25 FTE in 2021 due to COVID-19), .75 FTE Customer Service, Chris Reed, and .15 FTE Database Tech, Adar Feller (greater during staffing transitions).

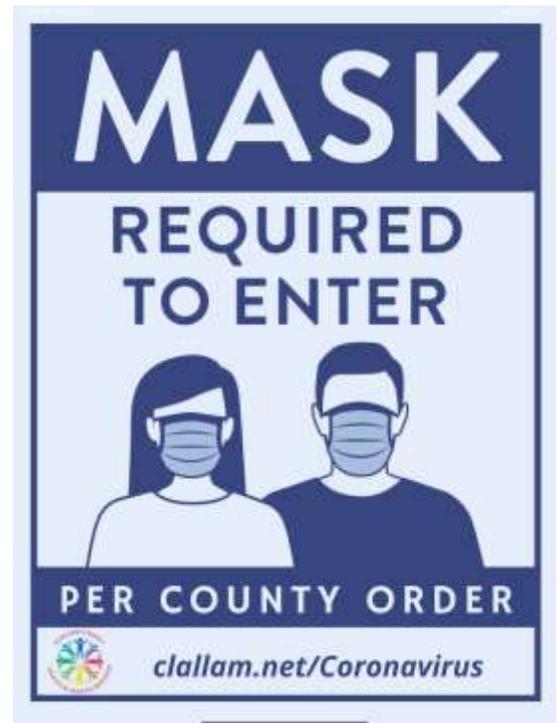
The Food Safety and Living Environment Programs filled the Customer Service position in May 2021 with the hiring of Chris Reed.

### **Routine Program Activities**

The Food Safety and Living Environment Programs permit, inspect, and educate food service establishments (restaurants, bars, retail food) and recreational water facilities (swimming pools and spas) in Clallam County. There are about 375 permitted food service establishments, 25 recreational water facilities, and typically 200 temporary food service permits issued. WAC 246-215-08400 requires food service establishments be inspected every six months, with some exceptions.

Staff responds to complaints and conducts investigations. Foodborne illness investigations are conducted, and if an outbreak is confirmed, it is reported to Washington State Department of Health.

The table on the next page shows routine work activities in the food safety program from 2014-2021.



|   | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Food Service Permits Issued (Permanent)       | 516   | 472   | 429   | 364   | 376   | 360   | 334   | 351   |
| Food Service Permits (Temporary)              | 204   | 190   | 174   | 85    | 211   | 219   | 26    | 55    |
| Food Service Inspections (permanent and temp) | 740   | 739   | 660   | 692   | 357   | 435   | 165   | 119   |
| Food Handler Cards Issued                     | 3,256 | 3,607 | 3,539 | 3,493 | 3,548 | 3,904 | 2,486 | 3,055 |
| Food Service Plan Reviews                     | 16    | 17    | 19    | 28    | 17    | 48    | 23    | 29    |
| Food Service Complaints Investigated          | 28    | 42    | 45    | 29    | 46    | 51    | 15    | 23    |
| Food Service Change in Service or Owner       | 13    | 5     | 21    | 19    | 14    | 13    | 7     | 14    |
| Foodborne Illnesses/Outbreaks Reported to DOH |       |       | 5     | 2     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Fee Waivers Issued for Food                   |       |       | 56    | 57    | 55    | 80    | 37    | 26    |



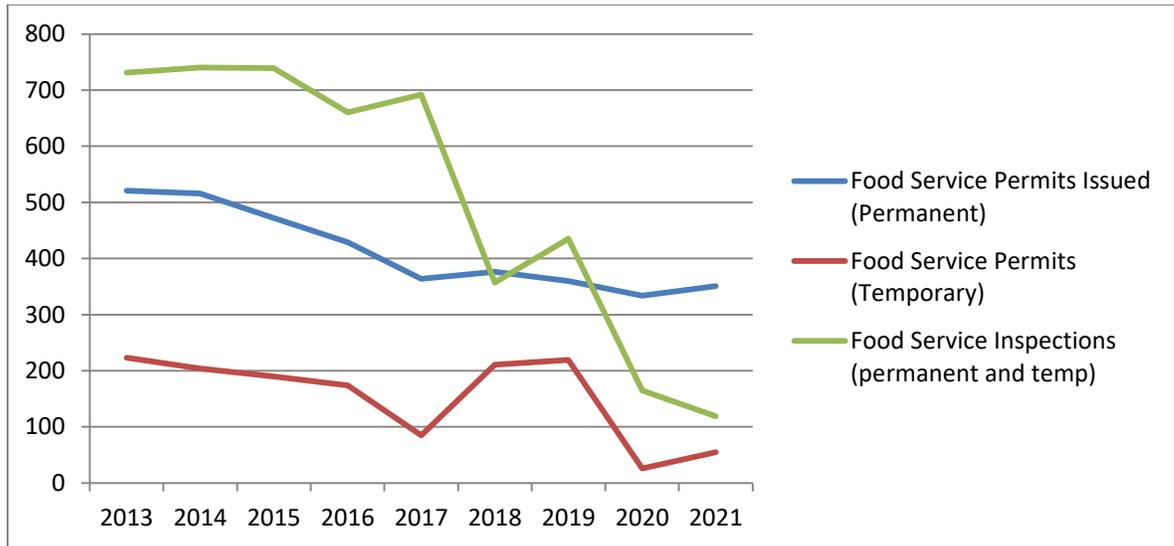
Regular work has been a challenge again in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regular field work was interrupted and limited to complaint response for food safety, COVID-19 mandate compliance education/enforcement, plan review and minimal routine inspections.

#### 2021 Program Highlights

The program highlights include the hiring of Chris Reed as Customer Service Specialist in May 2021. She has been a great addition to the team and has learned quickly and provided excellent public service. This was a welcome addition as the Food Program was without a dedicated Customer Service Specialist since April 2020. Nan and Adar, with two days a week with Karenann, heroically manhandled the customer service counter managing intake, entry, permitting and invoicing for the food program from mid-2020, then trained the new hire during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jess

worked mainly in COVID-19 response, becoming the go-to person for local infection control and outbreak response. Andrew shouldered all of the routine food safety activities of plan reviews, technical questions, and food inspections.

The food program is updating from the HealthSpace IBM Notes database program to the online HealthSpace Cloud version. This transition to a more modern web-based food program database will provide easier functionality for the public with applications and payments available online and additional reporting capabilities. This year, staff worked on developing and distributing Food Safety Program Newsletters with QR codes for posting to increase communication with food workers.



### Challenges in 2021 and COVID-19 Program Effects

The main challenge for 2021 was the COVID-19 response and its weight on our lightly staffed department. Staffing changes, departures and reassignments put a strain on all of EH. COVID-19 and the closure of businesses reduced the number of food service inspections and temporary food events. Administrative and Customer Service Staff had extra public interaction, communication and tracking of COVID-19 related complaints in relation to masking and vaccine mandates by the Washington Secretary of State and the Public Health Officer.

COVID-19 stretched our already thin staff to the limits. In January 2020, the Food Safety and Living Environment had 2.0 FTE Environmental Health Specialist and 1.0 Customer Service Specialist and in January 2021, the program had 1.15 EHS and the CSS position was vacant. COVID-19 complaint tracking, response, and investigation of establishments not enforcing the mask and vaccine mandate were especially time consuming.



## **Onsite Septic Operation & Maintenance Program**

The Clallam County Environmental Health Onsite Septic Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program is responsible for preventing premature failures by normalizing regular inspections, tracking O&M activity and assisting with grant tasks.

There are approximately 20,000 known septic systems in Clallam County. As of 1/1/22, there are 19,944 known OSS in Clallam County with 1,078 assumed systems for a total of 21,022. In the Marine Recovery Area (MRA) there are 12,560 known septic systems, with 193 assumed, for a total of 12,753.

The O&M inspection program is required by WAC 246-272A-0270 and CCC 41.20.170. Each septic system must be inspected annually or every three years, depending on the system.

### **Staffing**

The O&M program hired Jason Hart in December 2019. This marked the first time the O&M Program had a full-time staff member solely assigned to the program. The Database Technician, Adar Feller, spends ~0.25 FTE on O&M Program activities. The Water Quality Specialist, Heather Watts, works on OSS O&M grant management with ~0.25 FTE.

Heather took a position at Washington State Department of Health in July 2021; the position was refilled in December 2021. Jason moved to Idaho in October 2021 and the position is currently vacant.

Jason had barely started the job when the COVID-19 pandemic began. The O&M program was not able to get fully engaged because there was no in-person outreach during the pandemic and there was a conscious decision not to engage in enforcement activities during the first year of COVID-19.

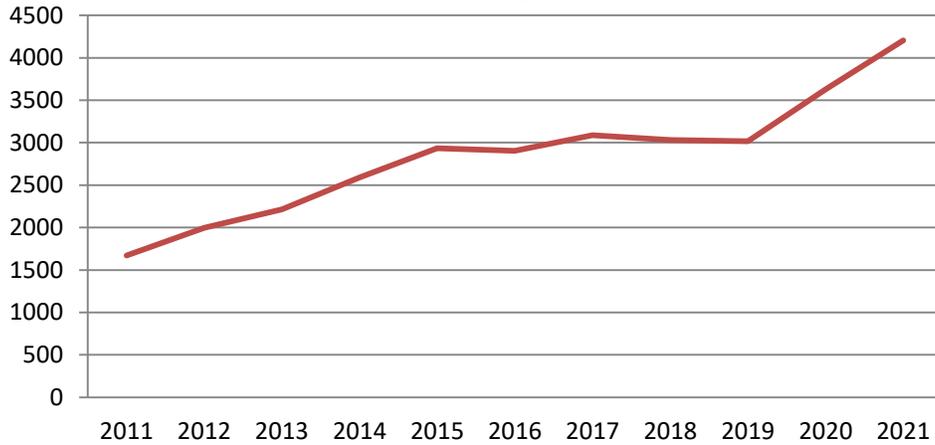
### **Routine Program Activities**

The main priority of the O&M Program is to normalize routine septic inspections. Routine O&M program activities include mailing septic inspection compliance (SIC) letters to homeowners. Areas of SIC are currently targeted through a combination of pollution identification projects and sensitive locales of citizen and/or staff concern. O&M Program responsibilities also includes the implementation and management of the homeowner Do-It-Yourself (DIY) inspection program, public outreach on best practices of septic system ownership and inspection compliance along with the review and follow-up on deficiencies of professional inspections.

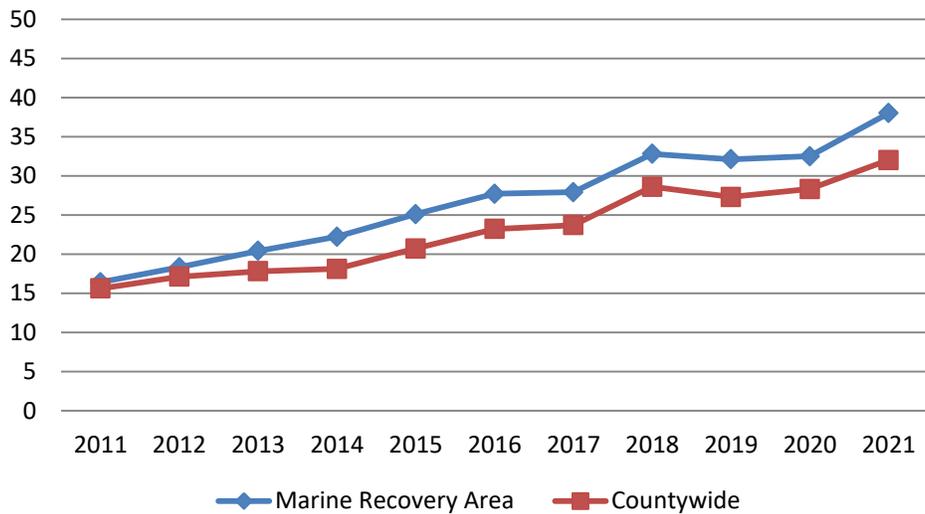
In December 2021, the percentage of septic systems current on their inspections county-wide was 32.0%; the percentage of septic systems current on their inspections in the Marine Recovery Area (MRA) was 38.0%

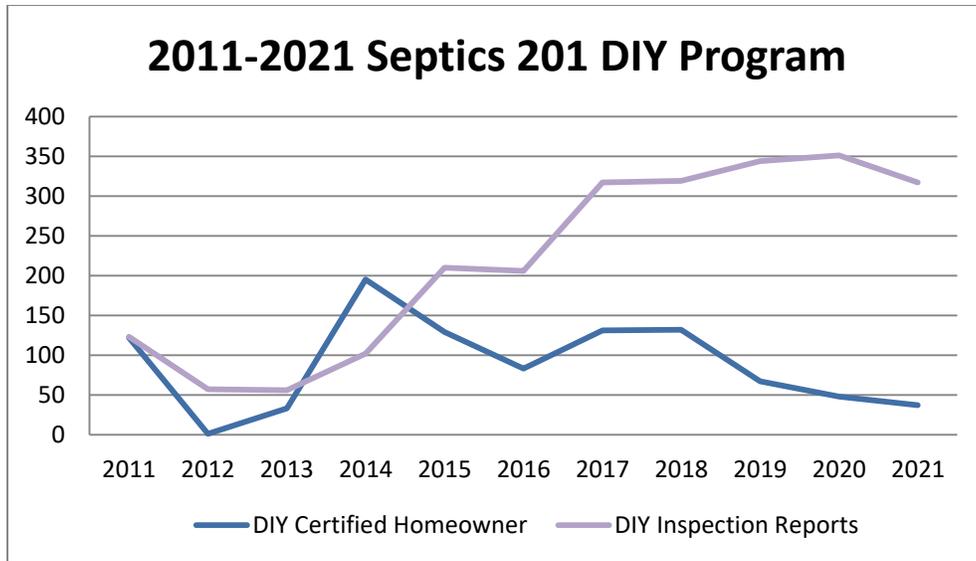
The tables below show the number of inspection reports submitted annually to Clallam County. The table on the following page show the number if Do-It-Yourself inspectors and inspections.

### 2011-2021 O&M Inspection Reports



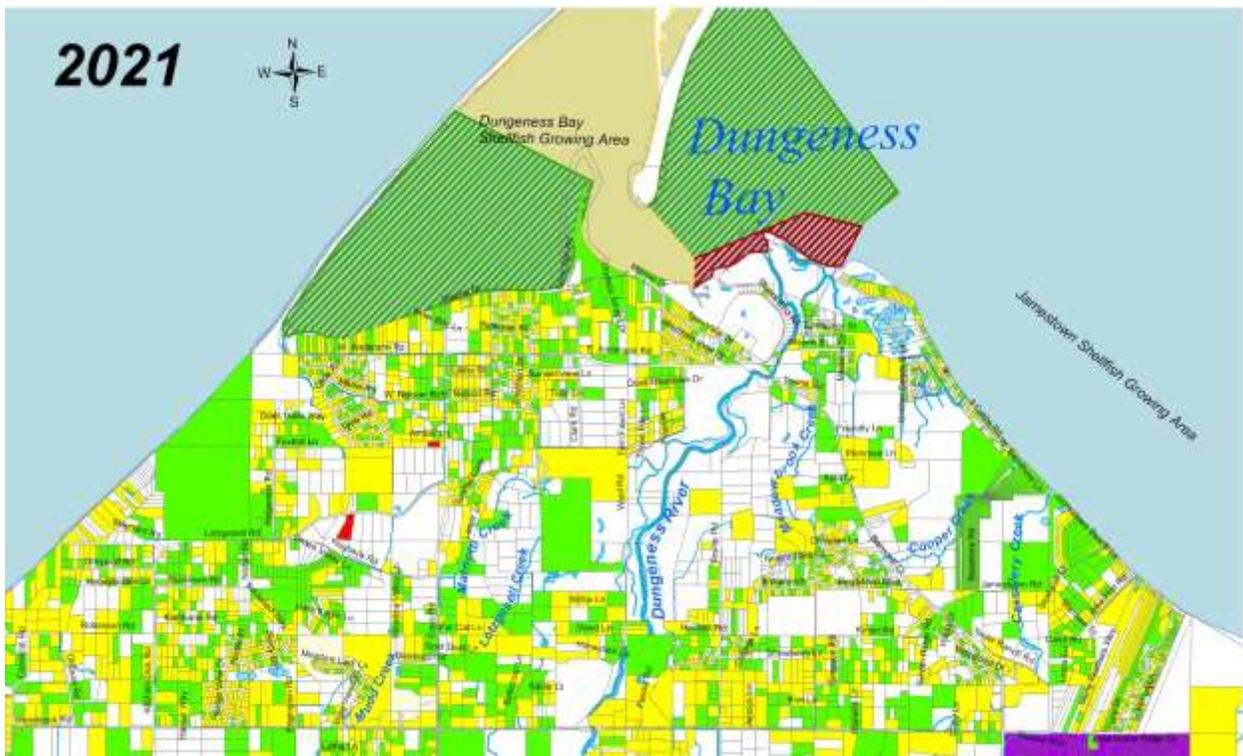
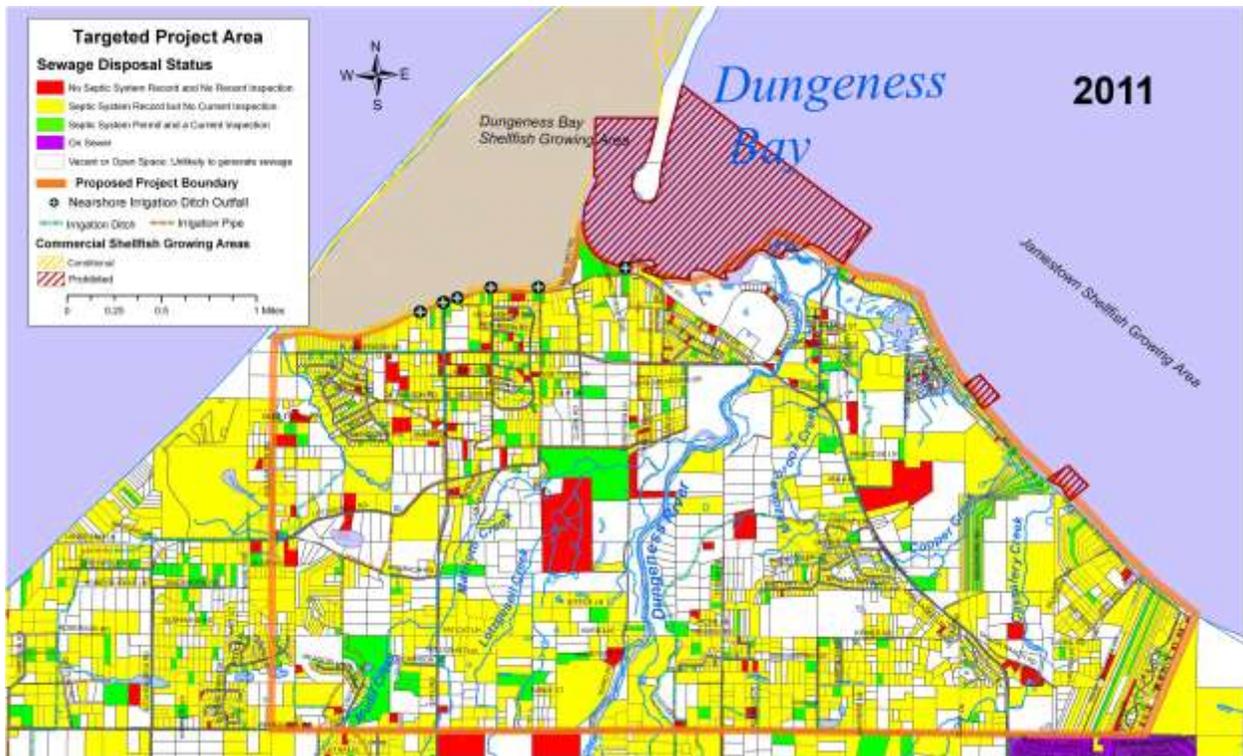
### Percent OSS Current on Inspections





Outreach and education activities include participating at in person outreach events like the Home Show and Building Expo. Postcards are mailed out to remind people it is time for their septic inspection. Staff works on advertising with the print and online newspapers, special event publications like the Newcomers Guide, and using social media. The third week of September is Septic Smart Week and we participate in outreach and social media. Banners are reserved in the three cities for Septic Smart Week.

Adar Feller, the Database Technician, expertly maintains the Red-Yellow-Green map to show SIC compliance. The red parcels indicate unknown septic systems. The O&M Specialist will work on identifying the unknown parcels. The Red-Yellow-Green maps on the next page show the difference between 2011 and 2021. There have been improvements in shellfish harvesting areas in Dungeness Bay and improvements on septic inspection compliance. In 2011, the MRA had a septic inspection compliance percentage of 15.6% and in 2021 it is 38.0%



### 2021 Program Highlights

The biggest program highlight for 2021 was the Board of Health passage of the \$13 septic fee in August 2021. EH had brought this to the BOH three times since 2010. Heather Watts and Janine Reed worked diligently to create an excellent presentation that included development of the O&M Program Manual. Previously, Andy Brastad and Jacob Melly worked hard to set up the foundation of information of the O&M Program.

Other program highlights include, a productive meeting with the O&M industry on 4/13/21, and ability to work on septic inspection compliance. Staff was able to mail SIC letters to specific geographic areas and work on identifying unknown systems.

### Challenges in 2021 and COVID-19 Effects

Staffing and COVID-19 were the biggest challenges of 2021. COVID-19 prevented in-person public outreach events, such as the Home Show and Building Expo, and fairs and festivals. Jason Hart spent half of his time in COVID-19 response. He was assigned to the logistics team in the Emergency Operations Center in COVID-19 response and then became the main contact for businesses for the State's reopening guidelines. He enjoyed talking with people and had a great demeanor with the public.

The loss of Jason and Heather affected getting the O&M Program from progressing in 2021.



This photo shows improper maintenance of biofilters.

## **Onsite Septic Permitting Program**

The Clallam County Environmental Health Onsite Septic Permitting Program is responsible for assuring that septic systems are designed, installed, and maintained in ways that meet State and local standards per WAC 246-272A and CCC 41.20.

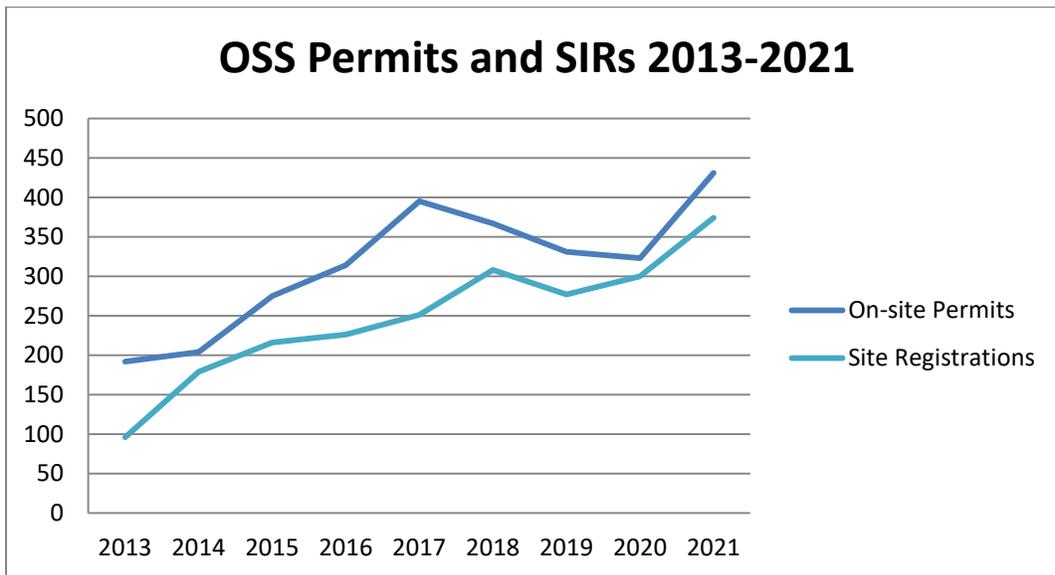
### **Staffing**

The onsite septic permitting program has five staff with ~3.7 FTE. The program includes 2.4 FTE Environmental Health Specialists, Janine Reed, Andy Gosnell, and Andy Perham, 1 FTE Administrative Specialist, Nan Furford, and .3 FTE Database Technician (QA/QC), Adar Feller.

### **Routine Program Activities**

The routine program activities include receiving and processing onsite septic permits. Staff receives permits at the EH counter, performs data entry of all permits, soil reports, waivers, complaints from professionals and the public. EHSs enforce Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) 246-272A and Clallam County Chapter 41.20 onsite septic codes by conducting soil evaluations in field, and reviewing and approving septic permit designs. EHS will investigate complaints of sewage surfacing and will send correspondence regarding failures and onsite permitting requirements.

The table below shows the number of OSS permits and site registrations submitted between 2013-2021.



Staff licenses septic installers and O&M providers annually. Staff will also provide professional education opportunities.

Staff provides technical assistance to homeowners, septic designers, and other onsite professionals.

### **2021 Program Highlights**

Onsite septic permitting program highlights include keeping our doors open for the public during the entire COVID-19 response. EH met the needs of the community. Nan maintained all of the first public interactions for all of Environmental Health while the food program had a vacancy for almost a year.

The food position was filled in May 2021 and Nan trained the new person while maintaining her workload. Janine, Andy G, and Andy P process OSS permits in a timely manner. Janine is the primary contact for OSS questions and Andy G is the primary field EHS for soils. In May 2021, Andy G passed the Washington State Department of Licensing Onsite Wastewater Inspector Exam and is now a Certified Wastewater Inspector. Sue Waldrip wrote down documentation and processes for land divisions (LDV) and boundary line adjustments (BLA) and trained Ben Majors.

EH staff processed over 400 septic permits and 370 site registrations. Staff maintained an average permit approval time of 30 days or less in 2021. EH started a new process for Cultural Resources Review using a map from a local tribe.

EH staff certified and conducted annual reviews of onsite septic pumpers and installers. Staff inspected all pump trucks. Staff completed data entry of pumping manifests.



This photo shows root intrusion in a septic tank.

**Challenges in 2021 and COVID-19 Program Effects**

The biggest challenge in the onsite septic permitting program is database and technology problems. The County’s primary permitting software, Permit Plan has been unsupported since 2010. It has been difficult to generate reports for required reporting to grant agencies and connect information from different databases.

COVID-19 program effects include inability to provide in-person activities with professionals and an increase of COVID-19 questions from the public.

EH onsite septic staff developed a permit extension process due to delays with COVID-19 and material shortages.

The table below shows the on-site septic work load indicators from 2013-2021.

| Year *(different from workload report) | 2013* | 2014* | 2015* | 2016* | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| On-site Permits                        | 183   | 194   | 267   | 314   | 395  | 367  | 331  | 323  | 431  |
| New                                    | 111   | 106   | 164   | 195   | 203  | 237  | 215  | 223  | 322  |
| Repair                                 | 67    | 80    | 91    | 82    | 87   | 106  | 93   | 90   | 93   |
| Other                                  | 5     | 8     | 12    | 19    | 105  | 24   | 23   | 10   | 16   |
| Site Registrations                     | 163   | 176   | 216   | 226   | 251  | 308  | 277  | 300  | 374  |
| New SIR                                | 110   | 107   | 150   | 159   | 179  | 216  | 203  | 228  | 284  |
| Repair SIR                             | 53    | 66    | 56    | 57    | 66   | 87   | 71   | 60   | 65   |
| LDV                                    | 0     | 3     | 10    | 10    | 6    | 4    | 2    | 9    | 23   |

|                                    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| On-site Complaints Investigated    | 33 | 32 | 21 | 25 | 52 | 39 | 61 | 57 | 63 |
| OSS Referrals to PAO               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 3  |
| Land Divisions, BLA, CUP Processed |    |    |    | 56 | 48 | 67 | 60 | 53 | 75 |

The table below shows the types of septic systems permitted in 2021.

**Septic Permits Installed between January 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022.**

| System Type \ month            | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <b>Aerobic Treatment Unit</b>  | 1   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 4   | 3   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 15    |
| <b>Biofilter</b>               | 0   | 0   | 4   | 1   | 6   | 8   | 6   | 6   | 9   | 4   | 3   | 1   | 48    |
| <b>Conventional</b>            | 0   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 4   | 4   | 4   | 6   | 5   | 3   | 1   | 2   | 33    |
| <b>Drip System</b>             | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 1   | 0   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 14    |
| <b>Mound</b>                   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 9     |
| <b>Pressure</b>                | 2   | 1   | 6   | 7   | 2   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 0   | 1   | 31    |
| <b>Pressurized Deep Trench</b> | 0   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 12    |
| <b>Pump to Gravity</b>         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 5     |
| <b>Sand Filter Bottomless</b>  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1     |
| <b>Sand Filter Pressure</b>    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1     |
| <b>Sand Line Pressure</b>      | 4   | 5   | 10  | 3   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 4   | 3   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 38    |
| <b>Tank Only</b>               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 11    |
| <b>Tank Repair</b>             | 3   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 18    |
| <b>Total</b>                   | 10  | 10  | 29  | 20  | 22  | 24  | 20  | 32  | 29  | 18  | 10  | 12  | 236   |

## **Solid and Hazardous Waste Program**

The Clallam County Environmental Solid and Hazardous Waste Program is responsible for assisting with, and responding to, solid and hazardous waste issues within Clallam County. There are 13 permitted solid waste facilities in Clallam County. EH enforces solid waste codes with authority by WAC 173-304, WAC 173-350, WAC 173-351, and CCC 41.11.

### **Staffing**

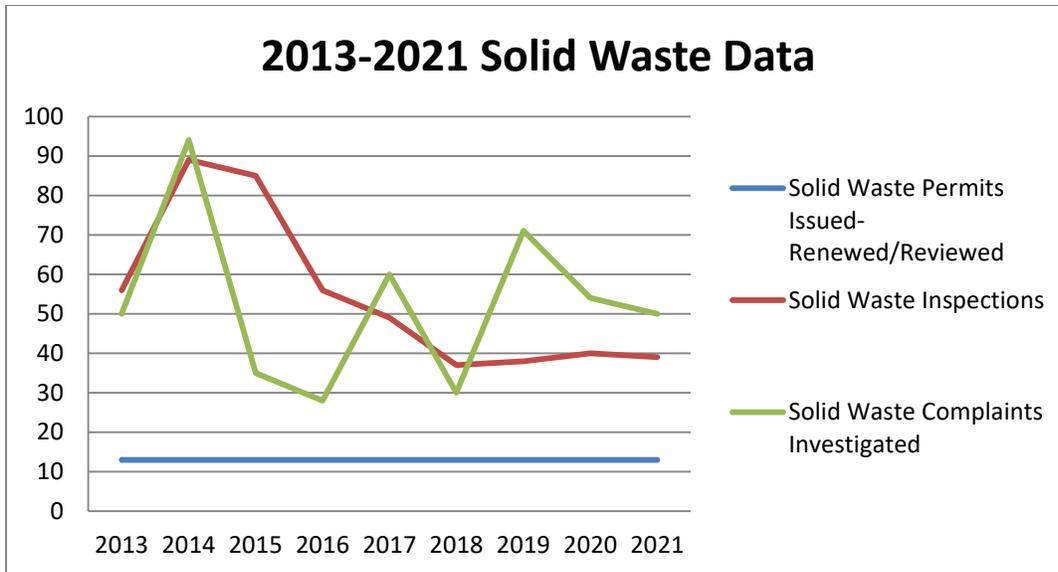
Nan Furford and Chris Reed are the Environmental Health Administrative and Customer Service Specialists who receive calls, answer questions, and log solid waste complaints brought in by the public. Eli Owens is the Environmental Health Specialist who investigates complaints, enforces violations, issues facility permits, reviews environmental reports, and inspects permitted facilities.

### **Routine Program Activities**

Routine program activities include, but are not limited to; business assistance, resident assistance, facility inspections, complaint investigations, complaint enforcement, issuance of permits, review of permits, review of new facilities or modification of existing facilities, working in partnership with Code Enforcement, with the septic team, with the Sheriff's Department, and with the Cities of Sequim and Forks. In addition, staff works on contributing to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the development of the *Clallam County Solid Waste Management Plan*.

The table below shows the number of solid waste permits, inspections, and complaint cases investigated from 2013-2021. The graph on the next page shows the number of solid waste permits, inspections, and complaint cases investigated from 2013-2021.

|   | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Solid Waste Permits Issued-Renewed/Reviewed | 13   | 13   | 13   | 13   | 13   | 13   | 13   | 13   | 13   |
| Solid Waste Inspections                     | 56   | 89   | 85   | 56   | 49   | 37   | 38   | 40   | 39   |
| Solid Waste Complaints Investigated         | 50   | 94   | 35   | 28   | 60   | 30   | 71   | 54   | 50   |



#### 2021 Program Highlights

All 13 solid waste facilities were permitted and inspected. Environmental reports with facility groundwater and methane gas data were reviewed.

A total of 29 solid waste complaint cases were closed in 2021, with one case receiving a \$14,000 fine. The *Clallam County Solid Waste Management Plan* was completed with final approval in July 2021.



#### Challenges in 2021 and COVID-19 Effects

There were many challenges and COVID-19 effects for the solid and hazardous waste programs. January 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> Eli Owens was responsible for the operation of the **Isolation, Quarantine, and Social Distancing Center** which housed up to 60 residents who were either displaced by COVID-19, or

who needed to be in isolation or quarantined due to close contact with or tested positive for COVID-19. As an active member of the Emergency Operation Center during this period, Eli assisted with supply issues and helped with mass vaccination events. Staffing shortages in Environmental Health made it necessary for Eli to take on aspects of other positions, such as stream surveys for the PIC program, water lab assistance, and COVID-19 investigation assistance with the Food Safety Program. Eli has been an adaptable EH team member.

## **Water Quality Program**

The Water Quality Program oversees the Environmental Health water quality plans, grants and contracts in the Onsite Septic System (OSS) and the Pollution, Identification, and Correction (PIC) areas.

### **Staffing**

The Water Quality Specialist spends 0.75 FTE of their time in the Water Quality Program. Heather Watts was in this role until July 2021. Adar Feller the Database Technician spends 0.25 FTE in this program. The position was vacant for five months, until Katie Kowal was hired in December 2021. Katie has been quickly learning the complex position involving grant management and groundwater monitoring.

### **Routine Program Activities**

The water quality program involves managing water quality grants. The WQS applies for competitive water quality grants, reviews draft grant scope of works (SOW), processes grant contracts internally through PAO and BOCC, completes required reporting, and works on grant budgets. The WQS keeps track of grant task and budget activities.

Routine program activities include working with partners such as Streamkeepers, local tribes, and technical groups, such as Clean Water Work Group, Dungeness River Management Team and Puget Sound Partnership Lead Integrating Organization. The WQS works with Clallam Conservation District and Jamestown S'Klallam tribe referring properties for cost shares as part of one of our grants.

The WQS develops and implements educational materials including radio ads, newspaper ads, creating posts for social media and other outreach materials for onsite septic systems and water quality.

The WQS coordinates PIC trends and segmented water sampling for the PIC Program.

The water quality program is involved with reviewing and following the Clallam County Pollution Identification and Correction Plan, the Clallam County Operation and Maintenance Plan.

### **2021 Program Highlights**

Water quality highlights include the Board of Health \$13 fee approval for the O&M program. This was a long standing OSS grant task. Other highlights include completing the Near Term Action (NTA) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), continuing PIC segmented sampling, and coordinating with partners in regular meetings.

### **Challenges in 2021 and COVID-19 Program Effects**

Challenges of 2021 include reduced staff due to reassignments in COVID-19 and the position vacancy from July-November, then having to train another new staff person.

There are database challenges with Permit Plan since it has been unsupported since 2010. It makes it difficult for reporting to granting agencies. It also was difficult to communicate between other software like OnlineRME.

In August 2021, Eli Owens and a staff person from Jamestown S'Klallam tribe were stung by 30-40 hornets each during a PIC segmented sampling event.

The Water Quality Program was affected by COVID-19 mainly by lack of in-person outreach and education, including open houses and site inspections.



## **Environmental Health Administration and Other Programs**

The Environmental Health Administration Program oversees the Environmental Health staffing and program activities. The Environmental Health Director coordinates EH staff and programs. Other Environmental Health programs include, biotoxin monitoring, emergency preparedness, foundational public health services (FPHS), and vector surveillance.

### **Staffing**

The primary staff in the EH Administration Program is the Environmental Health Director, Jennifer Garcelon. In summer 2020, Karenann Mygind worked two days a week at the customer service area to help out Nan Furford. In late 2021, Karenann transitioned to 0.8 FTE in Environmental Health focusing on FPHS administrative activities.

### **Routine Program Activities**

The Environmental Health Administration program consists of supporting Environmental Health staff and programs, and budget oversight. There are thirteen EH staff, excluding the EH Director. The EH Director is responsible for program staff hiring, staff support, and annual evaluations. The EH Director works closely with the Health Officer, HHS Director, Deputy Director, and Fiscal Specialist. The EH Director is responsible to present any Environmental Health local ordinance or policy changes to the Board of Health.

Other EH programs include the biotoxin monitoring program, emergency preparedness, and vector surveillance. The biotoxin monitoring program coordinates shellfish sample collection with staff and volunteers with Washington State Department of Health. At specific action levels, DOH will open or close beaches for shellfish harvesting, and EH will coordinate local press releases and updating beach signage.

In emergency preparedness, staff will work with Clallam County Department of Emergency Management on planning and response on disasters including windstorms, landslides, or power outages that affect drinking water, onsite septic systems, food safety, or solid waste systems.

With vector surveillance, EH works with Public Health when there has been a rabies exposure. EH will work with the State Public Health Laboratory for shipment of animals that require testing.

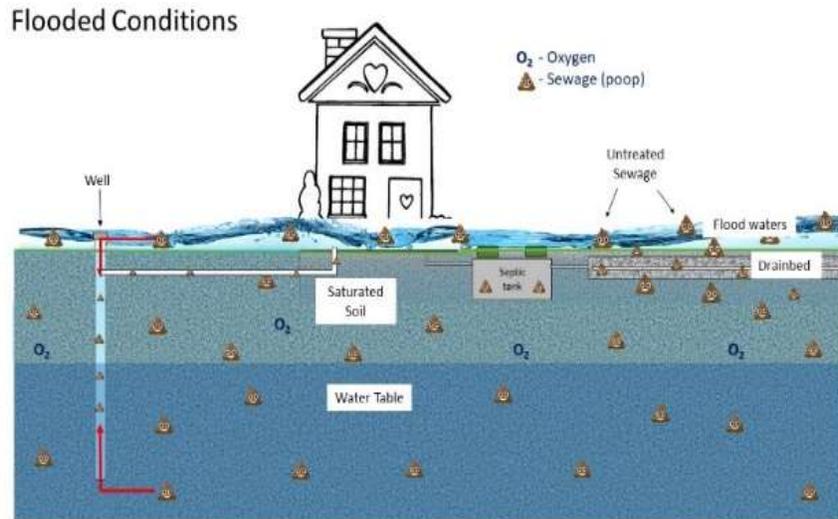
### **2021 Program Highlights**

Program highlights in 2021 include passage of the \$13 fee for the O&M Program and the addition of the foundational public health services program funding. Environmental health staff past and present, along with many industry and partner stakeholders, worked tirelessly to provide the foundation and background information to provide to the Board of Health for successful passage of the ordinance in August 2021.

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 43.70.515 funding foundational public health services. In October 2021, local health jurisdictions were allocated their FPHS funds with funds specified for Environmental Public Health Services. Clallam County EH was allocated \$245,000 for the budget year for FPHS. EH is working on developing programs. General guidance for the first round of the funding is

it can be used in the areas of food safety, onsite septics, and school safety in areas where fees cannot be used.

Environmental Health also responded to the November 2021 flooding and landslides. The atmospheric river affected the Clallam Bay-Seki water system and flooded many onsite septic systems. Staff worked with Clallam County Emergency Management with response in messaging and technical assistance for properties with flooded drinking water wells and septics.



### Program Challenges and COVID-19 Effects

Staffing continues to be a challenge throughout Environmental Health. There were two resignations and one retirement in 2021. EH has hired two great new staff, but still have a vacancy in the O&M program. EH is currently conducting a salary survey of like counties.

COVID-19 caused some wear on staff. From Jan-Mar 2021, Jennifer Garcelon worked 10-20 hours in the mass vaccination clinics on the weekends in Port Angeles in addition to the routine EH administrative work.

In September 2021, the Public Health Order requiring vaccination verification created a tremendous amount of work for the Environmental Health team. It was draining for the staff to see the portion of the public who demonstrated against the PHO every Friday for about six weeks. There were a few times the doors to the offices were locked and law enforcement presence was required.

## **Conclusion**

In 2021, the Clallam County Environmental Health team balanced routine, mandated environmental health programs with COVID-19 response. They worked together as a team to get things done. The drinking water, OSS, and solid waste programs maintained service levels. The food program adapted to new industry needs and different service levels. The administration program worked on new foundational public health service funding and public health emergencies.

Environmental Health followed their mission to protect the community's health through the prevention and control of environmentally related communicable diseases and through the minimization of exposure to environmental health hazards. EH implemented their vision to work together to provide responsible and professional enforcement of public health regulations, advocated the principles and values of public health, conducted themselves to inspire excellence in communication, problem solving, cooperation, teamwork, and public service. They worked to make a positive difference within the community through coordination and collaboration with the public and industry.

The team should be proud of what they accomplished in 2021!